

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 6.70.1069	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/IB 03/05413	International filing date (day/month/year) 26/11/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 29/11/2002
Applicant INTERBREW S.A.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II). ✓

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant. ✓

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority. ✓

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☒ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

6
☐ None of the figures. ✓

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB 03/05413

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims. ✓
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees. ✓

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 03/05413

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

A tap adapter (38) suitable for use in dispensing an alcohol beverage from a keg (12) which tap adapter has a hollow arm (120) adapted for mounting to a valve assembly (40) in fluid flow communication with a beverage dispensing valve (54) in the valve assembly. The arm may contain a dispensing tube (128). A first end portion (122) of the arm is adapted to releasably connect to the beverage dispensing valve to open the valve and has a tap (14) permitting beverage to flow through the hollow arm and out the tap. An air line passageway (50) is adapted to be connected to a second valve (56) in sealed fluid flow communication therewith passing through the valve assembly or keg. A source of air (10) is connected to the air line passageway for supplying pressurized air to the second valve and into the keg. A relief valve (190) is provided which can be opened to allow air to pass into the discharge tube upstream of the discharge end portion (124) whereby the beverage in the discharge tube downstream of the relief valve freely flows out of the discharge end portion.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-39

N.B.: claims 1-13 and 15-39 contain all the features of claim 14 and are therefore considered as depending thereon.

A tap adapter comprising: a hollow arm having a first end portion being connectable in fluid communication to a first valve on a keg and to open said valve; a tap connected to a second end portion of said arm for controlling the flow of a beverage through said hollow arm.

2. Claims: 40-51

A tap adapter comprising: a dispensing tube for a beverage having a relief valve at the discharge end portion and upstream thereof; a tap upstream of said relief valve which, when closing the beverage flow, opens said relief valve so as to discharge the liquid from said tube downstream the relief valve.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 03/05413

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B67D1/04 B67D1/08 F16K23/00 F16K7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B67D F16K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 389 191 A (LAMBRECHTS NV) 26 September 1990 (1990-09-26)	1
Y	paragraphs [0038], [0039], [0046], [0047]; figures 4, 5, 11, 14	2, 15-20, 25-31, 36, 37
Y	--- US 1 977 862 A (SCHOLTES ALBERT J) 23 October 1934 (1934-10-23)	2
A	page 2, line 14 -page 3, line 6; figures 1, 6	15, 16
X	--- US 3 905 522 A (JOHNSTON MACK S) 16 September 1975 (1975-09-16)	14
Y	column 9, line 52 -column 10, line 28; figures 1-4	15-20, 25-31, 36, 37
	column 13, line 54 -column 14, line 10 --- -/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 May 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

17. 05. 2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 03/05413

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 1 274 075 A (BURDETT KEMPE, L.) 10 May 1972 (1972-05-10)	40,41
A	page 2, line 79 - line 87 ---	38,39
X	CH 300 685 A (SCHENKEL CARL) 15 August 1954 (1954-08-15) the whole document ---	40,41
A	EP 1 245 526 A (HEINEKEN TECH SERVICES) 2 October 2002 (2002-10-02) figures 1,6 ---	2,6, 26-28
A	FR 2 778 959 A (BOUDIER PAUL) 26 November 1999 (1999-11-26) abstract; figure 2 -----	40-51

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 03/05413

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0389191	A	26-09-1990	AU 5202490 A CA 2012647 A1 EP 0389191 A1 PT 93507 A	27-09-1990 21-09-1990 26-09-1990 07-11-1990
US 1977862	A	23-10-1934	NONE	
US 3905522	A	16-09-1975	NONE	
GB 1274075	A	10-05-1972	NONE	
CH 300685	A	15-08-1954	NONE	
EP 1245526	A	02-10-2002	NL 1009654 C2 EP 1245526 A1 AT 228099 T AU 746823 B2 AU 5070799 A BG 105135 A BR 9912105 A CA 2337044 A1 CN 1117024 B CZ 20010172 A3 DE 69904050 D1 DE 69904050 T2 EA 1986 B1 EE 200100029 A EP 1097104 A1 HR 20010037 A1 HU 0102914 A2 ID 27961 A JP 2002520237 T NL 1012546 C2 NL 1014081 C2 NL 1014081 A1 WO 0003944 A1 NO 20010192 A NZ 509075 A PL 345393 A1 SK 272001 A3 TR 200100072 T2 US 6516839 B1 ZA 200007682 A	19-01-2000 02-10-2002 15-12-2002 02-05-2002 07-02-2000 28-09-2001 02-05-2001 27-01-2000 06-08-2003 13-02-2002 02-01-2003 09-10-2003 22-10-2001 17-06-2002 09-05-2001 28-02-2002 28-12-2001 03-05-2001 09-07-2002 24-01-2000 19-06-2000 08-02-2000 27-01-2000 12-03-2001 25-10-2002 17-12-2001 06-08-2001 21-06-2001 11-02-2003 01-11-2002
FR 2778959	A	26-11-1999	FR 2778959 A1	26-11-1999